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Tour of Ukraine during the period May 11, 1969 to May 31 1969

By a Canadian Professor of Ukrainian descent, his wife and sister-in-law.

1. All three were travelling together and missed their original flight from Toronto. As a result they entered the Soviet Union via Moscow and spent their first night there. They were not searched at customs and managed to bring in some Ukrainian ~~liter~~ emigre literary and art works: Novi Poeziyi No. 10, 1968, Anthology of French Canadian Poetry translated into Ukrainian; C. Bida's Lesya Ukrainka, the French edition of UkSSR poets translated into French, art catalogues, Osyp Goshulak's record. They left these books and record with various people - the Novi Poeziyi with Rostyslaw Bratun', the rest with Pavlychko, Drach, and Paradzhanov.
2. In Lviv they were mostly with their relatives and met almost no one. Heard that V. Chornovil is in Lviv and has some sore ~~xxx~~ of job, but they did not find out what exactly. Found that people speak more Ukrainian in Lviv than elsewhere. Visited Yanivskyy Cemetary and the section where the Sichovi Striltsi are buried. There is barbed wire surrounding this section but it is partly hidden. All the "tryzuby" have been scratched out and the whole section is in a state of neglect and disrepair. All three were followed everywhere they went - in most cases very obviously. In a restaurant they noticed a man who had been following them sitting at the next table pretending to read a newspaper which he was holding upside down. Found the people fairly informed about events in the West - all listen to Vatican and West German broadcasts. Although there is some interference, most programs can be heard fairly clearly over transistor sets.
3. In Ternopil a cousin of theirs ~~xxxxxx~~ told them that on May 5th there ~~xxx~~ had been a fire in the Ternopil Medical Institute in which Ukrainian archives perished. Either during the fire or shortly afterwards, some ~~Czech~~ Czech tourists tried to take photographs of the damage and the militia destroyed their cameras. They themselves took pictures of the site and no one stopped them. But people are reluctant to ~~xxx~~ talk about this happening.
4. In Kiev they got in touch with Drach and Pavlychko whom they had met previously in Winnipeg. ~~Subject~~ has a brother in Kiev. Through Drach they met Paradzhanov and visited the ~~Buznenko~~ Film Studios where they were shown two films - Kaminyi Khrest and Nich i Ia Ivana Kupala. They also saw some parts of Krynytsya Dlya Sprahlykh. Someone in the studio mentioned that there is a possibility that Nich may be exported to Canada, but Krynytsya is under "six locks" and has never been shown even in Ukraine. When asked if demands for this film's export would help the situation, the people there insisted that this would only put extra locks on this film. They met the young director Ilyenko at the studio and visited Paradzhanov at his home. Paradzhanov is ill and talks of dying soon. He is very outspoken against the regime.
5. They got in touch by telephone with Korotych but a meeting never materialized. They feel that Korotych did not want to meet with them. Claim that there is a lot of resentment against K. among the other writers.

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6. They visited Taras Franko and met Zina Franko. Zina has no job at present but has been offered work in Moscow. So far she is undecided, but they found her ~~extremely~~ "strange" and seemingly ~~in~~ suffering from nervous exhaustion.

7. On May 22 they happened to attend a part of the annual Shevchenko festivities. As they were being told by the manager of some restaurant that they should learn the language before they come to Kiev (they were speaking Ukrainian to her and she was shouting at them in Russian), a passerby who turned out to be a student, took them aside and offered to show them a restaurant where they could get food. ~~xxx~~ During the ensuing conversation he told them that there was going to be a gathering at the Shevchenko monument to celebrate the anniversary of the transfer of S's body from Leningrad. When they got there, there were great crowds of people, most of them students, and there was a lot of singing of Russian songs. The student told them that this was being done on purpose so as not to allow any performance of Shevchenko's works. He also told them that many policemen (KGB and militia) were milling in the crowd and showed them the trucks surrounding the entire area. The police are usually brought in from outlying towns (because the locals are known by the students) but the students seem to know who they are. After a short stay the student advised them to leave because he expected trouble later in the evening. Next day they met the same student who told them that he had left the celebration at 1:30 a.m. but he had heard that one or two people were arrested after that.

8. During their stay in Kiev they attended a symphonic concert conducted by Stepan Turchak. The young conductor is extremely popular in Ukraine. At his concert when he ~~xxx~~ conducted Revutsky's "Reve ta Stohne" the entire audience roared their approval and seemed to use this opportunity to express their patriotic feelings. Subject expressed this feeling as "sitting on a volcano about to explode". When the orchestra played a patriotic Russian composition, the balcony booed and most of the audience made noise to show their disrespect.

9. At a performance of Tosca, in which the leading lady was from Moscow, she sang her arias in Russian, while the rest of the performers sang in Ukrainian.

10. During a visit ~~of~~ to the Museum of Historical Valuables in Kiev, the guide asked the group, which consisted of a large group of mixed tourists, whether to speak in Ukrainian or in Russian. Subject's wife asked that she speak in Ukrainian. The guide spoke about this to the director and an argument ensued in which the guide refused to speak Ukrainian and the director insisted. They finally completed their argument in his office and when she returned to the group, she announced in Russian that because of this request she would give the tour in Ukrainian. There was obvious dissatisfaction with this on the part of the Russians in the group, but the tour was conducted in Ukrainian. During the tour the guide told the visitors that Ukraine had never ~~minted its own coins~~ minted its own coins. As there was a coin of the Kievan Rus era on exhibit (showing a trident) subject's wife drew the guide's attention to this. The guide went on to explain that Kievan Rus' was not Ukraine, that it was the source of both Russian and Ukraine and therefore not Ukraine proper and so on. S.'s wife told her that this was not the interpretation that she had been taught in school in Canada. The guide asked her to explain what she had been taught, but because Pavlychko was with them, and obviously nervous, S.'s wife did not continue the discussion. Later Pavlychko told her that it was better that she had not gotten into an argument because this might have had repercussions

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11. Concrete examples of the Russian attitude to things Ukrainian: Looking at St. Volodymyr's statue on the banks of Dnipro, several Russians were discussing which football hero would look better there - instead of some "khakhol". Several times they heard Ukrainian being called the "khakhlatsky yazyk". They were constantly being told to speak Russian because no one understands Ukrainian. As mentioned earlier, one woman told them to learn the language before they come the next time.

12. Subject visited Kiev University and heard only Ukrainian being spoken in the halls. He found all the students there and in general very consciously Ukrainian and resentful of the Russians. S.in law was told by someone (she couldn't remember who) that 17% of Kiev's youth was in some sort of "underground" movement.

13. On their return through customs, their luggage was not searched. They were asked whether they were taking out any manuscripts, but when Prof. Rozumny told them that they had nothing and invited the customs official to check, the latter did not search.

14. Subjects party heard that Lina Kostenko had given birth to a son very recently.

From two other Canadian Ukrainians travelling in the same group

the following information was obtained:

Their luggage was not searched at either entry or exit from Kiev.

They had received from Lida Palij Paradzhanov's address and some medicine for nam. He invited them to his home and there they met someone by the name of Orlov, were taken for a tour of the Dovzhenko Film Studio, and met a few people.

They met the younger Hluschenko and spent quite a bit of their time with him and his friends. They think that almost everyone of that crowd is on some sort of drugs. Near the end of their stay, after spending the evening in a bar with the younger Hluschenko, when they left the bar, some militia men came up to Hluschenko and arrested him, leaving the girls to find their own way home at about 2 a.m. Next day they saw Hluschenko again and he told them that he had not filed some sort of form with reference to his car and this was the reason for his arrest. He also told them that the militia had already warned him not to stay out so late. When the girls told Paradzhanov and Orlov about this, Paradzhanov told them that it would be better if he would not see them off at the airport (he had wanted to do this prior to this occurrence), and Orlov refused to come out and meet them.

They claim that they were constantly followed in Lviv, but not in Kiev.